

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 16, 17, 26, 31, 32, 40-42, 46, 47, 61, 62 and 71 to read as follows:<sup>1</sup>

*Sub C1*

1. (Amended) A fixing apparatus, comprising:

- a heater having a line shape orthogonal to a direction in which a recording sheet carrying an unfixed toner image formed with toner in accordance with image information is transferred;
- an endless belt configured to be rotated with an inner surface thereof sliding over a surface of said heater;
- a pressure roller arranged at a position opposite to said heater relative to said endless belt, said pressure roller being held for rotation in contact with said endless belt under pressure to form a nip therebetween; and
- a heater controller configured to control an amount of heat produced by said heater in accordance with said image information on the recording sheet,

wherein, when said recording sheet is brought to said nip with said unfixed toner image facing said endless belt, said pressure roller applies pressure to said recording sheet against said endless belt so that said unfixed toner image is fixed on said recording sheet with heat by said heater as said recording sheet is transferred by movement of said endless belt and said pressure roller.

2. (Amended) A fixing apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein said toner includes a resin as a main adhesive agent and has properties of a softening or melting point in a range between 50°C and 160°C and a viscosity in a range between 10 (c poise) and 10<sup>13</sup> (c poise) under a temperature above said softening or melting point.

<sup>1</sup>A marked-up copy of the changes made to these claims is attached.

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16. (Twice Amended) A fixing apparatus, comprising:

heating means for heating an unfixed toner image formed with toner on a recording sheet in accordance with image information, said heating means having a line shape orthogonal to a direction in which said recording sheet is transferred;

endless belt means for being rotated with an inner surface thereof sliding over a surface of said heating means;

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pressure roller means being held for rotation in contact with said endless belt means under pressure to form a nip therebetween, said pressure roller means being arranged at a position opposite to said heating means relative to said endless belt means; and

heater controlling means for controlling an amount of heat produced by said heating means in accordance with said image information on the recording sheet,

wherein, when said recording sheet is brought to said nip with said unfixed toner image facing said endless belt means, said pressure roller means applies pressure to said recording sheet against said endless belt means so that said unfixed toner image is fixed on said recording sheet with heat by said heating means as said recording sheet is transferred by movement of said endless belt means and said pressure roller means.

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17. (Amended) A fixing apparatus as defined in Claim 16, wherein said toner includes a resin as a main adhesive agent and has properties of a softening or melting point in a range between 50°C and 160°C and a viscosity in a range between 10 (c poise) and 10<sup>13</sup> (c poise) under a temperature above said softening or melting point.

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26. (Twice Amended) A fixing apparatus as defined in Claim 16, further comprising guide roller means for supporting said endless belt means and serving as cooling means for cooling said toner image after said toner image is fixed with heat by said heating means on

B4 said recording sheet, said guide roller means being arranged at a position downstream from  
said heating means in said direction in which said recording sheet is transferred.

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31. (Twice Amended) A fixing method of image forming, comprising the steps of:  
forming a nip between an endless belt and a pressure roller which are held for rotation  
in contact with each other under pressure;  
providing a heater at position inside said endless belt, in contact with said endless  
belt, and opposite to said pressure roller relative to said endless belt, said heater having a line  
shape orthogonal to a direction in which a recording sheet having an unfixed toner image  
formed with toner in accordance with image information is transferred;  
rotating said endless belt and said pressure roller, said endless belt sliding over a  
surface of said heater by rotation;  
transferring said recording sheet to said nip, said recording sheet being in an  
orientation in which said toner image faces said endless belt; and  
controlling an amount of heat produced by said heater in accordance with said image  
information on the recording sheet when said toner image is brought to said heater.

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32. (Amended) A fixing method as defined in Claim 31, wherein said toner includes  
a resin as a main adhesive agent and has properties of a softening or melting point in a range  
between 50°C and 160°C and a viscosity in a range between 10 (c poise) and 10<sup>13</sup> (c poise)  
under a temperature above said softening or melting point.

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40. (Twice Amended) A fixing method as defined in Claim 31, further comprising  
the step of cooling said toner image after said toner image is fixed with heat by said heater on  
said recording sheet.

41. (Twice Amended) A fixing method as defined in Claim 31, further comprising  
the step of providing a guide roller for supporting said endless belt and for serving as a

cooling member for cooling said toner image after said toner image is fixed with heat by said heater on said recording sheet, said guide roller being arranged at a position downstream from said heater in said direction in which said recording sheet is transferred.

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42. (Twice Amended) A fixing method as defined in Claim 31, further comprising the step of providing a member for causing said endless belt to tightly hold said toner image and said recording sheet together until said toner image is fixed on said recording sheet after said toner image is subjected to the heat of said heater.

46. (Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:  
an image forming mechanism configured to form a toner image with toner on a recording sheet in accordance with image information;  
a heater having a line shape orthogonal to a direction in which said recording sheet carrying an unfixed toner image formed by said image forming mechanism is transferred;  
an endless belt configured to be rotated with an inner surface thereof sliding over a surface of said heater;  
a pressure roller arranged at a position opposite to said heater relative to said endless belt, said pressure roller being held for rotation in contact with said endless belt under pressure to form a nip therebetween; and  
a heater controller configured to control an amount of heat produced by said heater in accordance with said image information on the recording sheet,  
wherein, when said recording sheet is brought to said nip with said unfixed toner image facing said endless belt, said pressure roller applies pressure to said recording sheet against said endless belt so that said unfixed toner image is fixed on said recording sheet with heat by said heater as said recording sheet is transferred by movement of said endless belt and said pressure roller.

Sub C5

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47. (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 46, wherein said toner includes a resin as a main adhesive agent and has properties of a softening or melting point in a range between 50°C and 160°C and a viscosity in a range between 10 (c poise) and 10<sup>13</sup> (c poise) under a temperature above said softening or melting point.

Sub C6  
61. (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:  
image forming means for forming a toner image with toner on a recording sheet in accordance with image information;  
heating means for heating an unfixed toner image formed with toner on a recording sheet in accordance with image information, said heating means having a line shape orthogonal to a direction in which said recording sheet is transferred;  
endless belt means for being rotated with an inner surface thereof sliding over a surface of said heating means;  
pressure roller means being held for rotation in contact with said endless belt means under pressure to form a nip therebetween, said pressure roller means being arranged at a position opposite to said heating means relative to said endless belt means; and  
heater controlling means for controlling an amount of heat produced by said heating means in accordance with said image information on the recording sheet,  
wherein, when said recording sheet is brought to said nip with said unfixed toner image facing said endless belt means, said pressure roller means applies pressure to said recording sheet against said endless belt means so that said unfixed toner image is fixed on said recording sheet with heat by said heating means as said recording sheet is transferred by movement of said endless belt means and said pressure roller means.

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62. (Amended) An image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 61, wherein said toner includes a resin as a main adhesive agent and has properties of a softening or melting